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cut a picture as he draws. The period of the confederation was a time of constitution making in the states, the question of division of power between nation and states was widely discussed, and at least one other man, Noah Webster, felt that he was entitled to the credit for suggesting the division of powers between the central and local governments. The idea was in any case only partly new, as is shown for example in Fisher's review of American material in his *Evolution of the Constitution of the United States*.

The latter portion of the book shows better balance. It traces the influence of slavery on our constitutional growth, the development of the interpretation of the constitution by the Supreme Court before the Civil War, the changes brought by the war amendments, and the constitutional questions raised by the Monroe Doctrine, our new colonial responsibilities, and industrial problems. The last chapter gives an argument for increased co-operation to get uniform standards for constitutions and laws in the various states. This development we must have unless our federal constitution can be so modified as to meet the great economic questions which have replaced our former political problems. One hundred and seventy-five pages are devoted to reprints of the most important documents connected with the growth of our constitution.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

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Webb, Sydney, and Beatrice. *The History of Trade Unionism*. Pp. lxxviii, 558. Price, \$2.60. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1911.

A new edition (tenth thousand) of that authoritative volume, "The History of Trade Unionism," by Sydney and Beatrice Webb, has just been issued by Longmans, Green and Company. No revision of the text has been made, for, as the authors state, "our subsequent investigations and readings give us no occasion to alter what we wrote in 1894." They have, however, written a new introductory chapter in which, in addition to indicating most excellently, although all too briefly, in what respects the position of trade unionism has changed since the publication of the first edition of the book, they have discussed at great length the momentous decision of the House of Lords in the case of *Osborne vs. The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants*.

In the *Osborne* Judgment the Law Lords formally held that a trade union "could be restrained from making a levy upon its members (and from using any of its funds) for the purpose of supporting the Labor party or maintaining members of Parliament." This followed directly from their decision that all trade unions must be deemed to be corporate bodies whose powers and privileges are determined by the definition of a trade union which Parliament incorporated in the Trade Union Act of 1876. The importance of the decision is realized only when it is noted "how extensive and how varied are the actually existing operations of trade unions that are now rendered illegal," because they were not included in the above-mentioned Parliamentary definition. After severely criticising the position taken by the Law

Lords, the authors declare that the decision has "created an intolerable situation which Parliament will quite inevitably be driven to remedy," just as was the case in 1871-6 and again in 1906, when it rescued "the unions from the narrow views taken by the judges."

Regarding the matter of trade union membership the authors state that at the end of 1910 it exceeded two and a quarter millions, a total surpassed only by that of 1907, when the membership stood at 2,406,746. The distribution of trade unionism among the various industries remains much as it was in 1894, "with the significant exception that the increase has been greatest in the trades and in the districts which were already most effectively organized." The geographical distribution of membership also remains practically the same, "except that the rural districts are more than ever destitute, and the great industrial centers better provided than before." The financial position as well as the internal organization of the great trade unions have improved with each succeeding year. Brief comment is also made regarding the growth of federal organization among the unions, the success of political action, the increasing acceptance of the principle of collective bargaining, the outcome of the more important strikes and the changes brought about in the legal status of trade unionism by the late decisions of the House of Lords.

The years following 1894 have been rich with incidents and developments in the trade union world of England, and it is to be regretted that the Webbs have not brought the volume down to date.

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Webb, Sydney and Beatrice. *The Prevention of Destitution.* Pp. vi, 348.

Price, \$1.50. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1911.

It would hardly be unfair to consider this volume as a continuation of the minority report of the recent poor law commission. The attempt is made to present constructive suggestions as the title suggests. Trenchant criticism of the existing order in England is by no means absent.

Destitution as a disease of society is first considered, and it is shown that the majority of the destitute are such through causes over which they have little control—social maladjustment, Dr. Patten would say. If existing medical knowledge were utilized in *every* case of sickness most of it would be prevented. Why this is not done under England's system is pointed out. The neglect of childhood is a potent factor, and the lack of some uniform plan for the various public activities is set forth. Sweating and unemployment are again mighty causes. "How to Prevent Unemployment and Underemployment," the first long chapter of the volume, is an elaboration of the above mentioned report.

Chapter VII, "Insurance," is probably the most significant in the light of England's program. How insurance may be widely used by the state without becoming a new form of outdoor relief and thus undermining the moral standards is most important. The authors feel that there is "an